

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Brianna Boirie, and I am a resident of Middletown CT and a student at the University of Connecticut. I am from an immigrant family and in close relations to immigrant communities.

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I was born and raised in Middletown CT and now a senior at the University of Connecticut. I am studying Communications, with minors in Latinx Studies and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. Within my studies, current work, and future career, I have focused on providing resources and advocating for need-based communities. My experiences growing up and the communities I am a part of, have demonstrated the importance of this work and why it's necessary for me to contribute.

I come from a very blended family with relatives from all different backgrounds and statuses. While my immediate family is from Puerto Rico and have, for the most part, always have had access to healthcare, many close to us have not. I have seen firsthand the impact inaccessible healthcare can have on individuals and their families. For instance, My uncle, who is hearing impaired, came to the United States undocumented. Due to his status, it was very difficult to receive the medical resources he needed to live day to day. His legal circumstances, lack of medical assistance, in addition to being deaf, prohibited his ability to securely live. These factors impacted his ability to find employment, stable housing, and supply himself with basic necessities such as food and transportation. Due to lack of health insurance, and as a result medical resources, my uncle could not provide for himself or receive the support his (dis)ability called for. He was forced to solely rely on those around him for stability.

The passing of this bill and it being opened to everyone, regardless of status or age, would provide the necessary support and assistance many immigrants are forced to live without. Access to healthcare is a basic human need. Its availability to all, ultimately benefits everyone in a community. Health insurance would have provided my uncle with the resources he needed and autonomy over his own well being. This bill would not only help my uncle but the many families in need experiencing preventable hardship.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,
Brianna Boirie